

Chatham Township Environmental Commission
58 Meyersville Rd, Chatham, NJ 07928, 973-635-4600

Minutes of the Tuesday, December 4, 2012 CTEC Meeting

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:20 pm on Tuesday, December 4, 2012 at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members L. Caprioglio, S. Carroll, F. Esposito, S. Krishnan, M. Palmer (arrived 7:30), M. Schaaf, D. Stillinger, Township Liaison Kathy Abbott (arrived 7:38); Lee Blair – Watershed Ambassador and township resident Mike Kelly.

CTEC'S PURPOSE: to undertake projects and make recommendations concerning the protection or use of natural resources, including water resources, located within or directly affecting Chatham Township.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT -- The meeting schedule for 2012 is posted on the main bulletin board at the Township municipal building and mentioned on the Chatham Township website at www.chathamtownship.org. It has also been published in the Chatham Courier and Daily Record newspapers. The public is cordially invited to attend all meetings, join the discussions and participate in projects.

The Chatham Township Environmental Commission's goal is to provide a responsible environmental viewpoint to Township committees and boards and to undertake projects with a strong educational component in order to inform officials and residents about constructive actions that can be taken to preserve the environment.

CTEC AND GREEN TEAM MEETING DATES FOR 2012 AND JANUARY 2013.

Every first Tuesday (except no meeting in July) at 7:15 PM at the Chatham Township Municipal Building: Second Tuesday, Jan 10, 2012, first Tuesdays Feb. 7, March 6, April 3, May 1, June 5, July no meeting, August 7 (cancelled), Sept. 4, October 2, November 6, December 4, and January 8 (second Tuesday), 2013.

CTEC and Green Team minutes from October 2 and November 6, 2012 were approved, motioned by Frank Esposito and 2nd by S. Carroll with all in favor.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MEGAN SCHAAF ON BEING APPOINTED TO CTEC!

WELCOME TO 2013 WATERSHED AMBASSADOR LEE BLAIR.

GREEN TEAM MEETING

S. Carroll, Green Team Chair - 7:26-7:34

Sustainable Jersey update - enough points for renewing Bronze certification have been submitted. Complete Streets in process; points achieved can be used for reserve. Applied for Safe Routes to School - on going. Green Development checklist draft reviewed, an amended ordinance approval required. The changes need to be incorporated into final draft which will be reviewed at the December 17 Planning Board. NRI update meeting held on Nov. 19, NRI is close to completion and will earn 20 points for SJ.

CTEC MEETING DATES FOR 2013 AND JANUARY 2014

Suggest every first Tuesday February through December 2013 and the second Tuesday in January 2014.

February 5, March 5, April 2, May 7, June 4, July NO MEETING, August 6, September 3, October 1, November 5, December 3 in 2013 and January 14 in 2014. After a lengthy discussion regarding concerns of meetings held on election day(s), June 4th and November 5, 2013, the majority of the commission decided to keep the meeting dates as is.

M. Palmer motioned to accept the meetings dates as noted above and L. Caprioglio 2nd, F. Esposito and S. Carroll voted to approve all dates except the election dates, all other members present voted in favor.

TREE PLANTING DISCUSSION

Diane DeBrule, who is a Master Gardener, shared information from a lecture she attended on suburban NJ trees that will survive the climate change that is expected in the next 50 years. For example, maple trees are not expected to do well in NJ in the near future due to the climate changes, oak are threatened by deer and Asian longhorn beetle and emerald ash borer. This is important for the post storm replanting project by CTEC. Tentative date is Arbor Day, April 26, 2013. Tree subcommittee co-chairs are Matt Palmer and Mike Kelly. An invite was extended to the Master Gardeners to attend a CTEC meeting. A list of homeowner friendly trees that thrive during climate change will be compiled. A vendor for tree purchase needs to be researched.

APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

NEW. PSE&G. 10-12-12. Application to NJDEP for Individual Freshwater Wetlands Permit for wetlands disturbance for construction of the North Central Reliability Project. Work in the swamp has been exemplary - precisely 20 foot wide corridor with double silt fences and a very sturdy wood vehicle track over the wetlands. Also good up the slope away from the swamp. Erosion mostly prevented with hay bales and silt fences. D. Stillinger will draft & send a letter to PSE&G regarding the right of way and replanting, will be circulated by email for edits.

PENDING. T MOBILE NORTHEAST LLC, Block: 62, lots: 52 & 54. 7-19-12. Application to Board of Adjustment for temporary wireless communication tower and associated equipment. Tower will be constructed on the upper field at Esternay Field. Planning Board will have a courtesy review of the application on Monday December 17.

CLOSED. Eveleth, 340 Lafayette Avenue, B 102.11, L 10.01. 3-14-12. Application to Board of Adjustment for variances to enlarge a house near a stream and wetlands. Memo sent to Board of Adjustment suggesting applicant obtain an LOI. Applicant applied for an LOI, NJDEP ruled that no wetlands were present on site and footprint of disturbance was less than 50 feet from any Intermediate Resource wetlands, which require a 50 foot buffer.

PENDING. Rolling Knolls Superfund site at the end of Britten Road. No new information. It was specifically excluded from the market garden ordinance.

REPORTS

Planning Board report. Bhee application on steep slopes on Fairmount Ave- applicant cancelled. Reviewing checklist. Getting estimates to put masterplan on twp website. Complete streets – professional planner agreed to do a major rewrite, twp planner will be involved. L. Caprioglio, Planning Board liaison.

Commission spoke about a combined Board of Adjustment into Planning Board – This was explained how two boards in some Townships are combined and the benefits and concerns that ensue.

Township Committee report. K. Abbott, Township Committee liaison. Update circulation plan from 1999. New Township Committee member Kevin Sullivan will be sworn- in in January.

Open Space Committee report. S. Krishnan and M. Schaaf, Open Space Committee liaisons. A township resident attended the Open Space meeting expressing concerns about a creation of a trail (transportation corridor) which abuts their property. Open Space committee agreed to do a site visit.

Communications Committee report. Change to Township website . F. Esposito, Chair.

Recycling Committee report. November 2 Recycling Awards dinner rescheduled to April. Awards to be given for CTEC recycling video and Rocket Composter. Condos are getting ready for new recycling system pickup. 12/13/12 recycling meeting @ MUA Headquarters. F. Esposito, Chair.

Community Education and Outreach Committee report. Frank will arrange for a tour (in the spring) of the Mine Hill Recycling Plant.

DISCUSSION/ACTIONS

- CTEC is questioning the necessity for applicants to provide 25 copies of each application packet to the Planning Board, more so of who is receiving a copy. Matt Palmer will inquire as to who accounts for each packet. CTEC would like to see a reduction in cost and paper waste and inquire as to PDF instead.
- Report on Bill McKibben's 350.org event in New York City on Nov. 16. S. Carroll and S. Krishnan.
- Safe Routes to School - update. Report submitted to Township Committee, application will be made for grants and Gold status with the SRTS organization. "This (Chatham school district) was the only school district in which every school participated in SRTS programs throughout the school year." K. Abbott.
- Complete Streets - update. K. Abbott.
- Three changes of ownership of properties with conservation easements - Churchill to Matia at 602 Fairmount Avenue (CE held by Great Swamp Watershed Association), Dudley to Mazzilli at 130 Meyersville Road (CE held by Chatham Township and NJDEP), Dudley to Oh at 126 Meyersville Road (CE held by Chatham Township and NJDEP).
- NRI revision. The current draft can be viewed at <http://allcat.tzo.com>. S. Carroll, S. Krishnan, M. Palmer, D. Stillinger.
- Note alternatives being proposed for Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. The word on the street is that Option B is most favored. Read the Plan at <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/planning/Great%20Swamp/ccphome.html>.

- Identify a stormwater mitigation project to make use of funds in escrow account of East Park Builders, which is unable to meet its stormwater requirements on site on Mountainview Ave.
- Green Village Pond Conservation Area on Township property on Green Village Road. Open Space Committee is urging formal protection of the former Stoller parcel so the area will be eligible for grants. CTEC is pursuing cleanup and construction of a nature trail. D. Stillinger.
- PSE&G's proposed power line upgrade. About 2.5 miles are in Chatham Township. Of the 15 towns along the route Chatham Township has the second-longest run, after Livingston's 10 miles. Berkeley Heights has about 2 miles.
- Consider subscribing to the DEP's news service. Go to <http://www.nj.gov/dep/newsrel>

RECENT LETTERS SENT

- September 2012. Letter to NJDEP urging care in delineating wetlands on Block 102.11, Lot 10.01.
- July 2012. Letter to Passaic River Coalition supporting their proposed purchase of 4 parcels along the river. Letter to Township Committee urging denial of T-Mobile request to violate a conservation easement.
- June 2012. Memo to Board of Adjustment urging protection of wetlands on Block 102.11, Lot 10.01. Memo to NJDEP urging protection of wetlands on Block 69, Lot 15.

EVENTS

- December 5, Wednesday, 8 AM. SEAMLESS at the Madison Library. Richard Dwyer, Public Affairs Manager at PSE&G, will speak about the PSE&G Northeast Reliability Project and answer questions.
- December 13, Thursday, 8 AM. GSWA Breakfast Briefing at the Great Swamp Watershed Association office at 568 Tempe Wick Road. Professor Joseph J. Seneca from Rutgers University's Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy will speak on The Economic Implications of Climate Change in New Jersey.

MAIL RECEIVED

- Minutes of meetings of Chatham Borough and Long Hill Environmental Commissions.
- Notices and flyers.

ADJOURN 9:45 PM

Carolyn Scannelli
Minutes Secretary